

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Snider (U.S. Pat. No. 4,471,250), and rejected claims 12 and claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated individually by Müller (U.S. Pat. No. RE34,268) or Maruyama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,603,271). Also, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al. in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,509,666). The applicants respectfully disagree and request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections for the reasons provided below.

102(b) Rejection over Snider

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Snider, claims 1 and claims 5 are currently amended to introduce a stator and a rotor to the claims, wherein the stator comprises a fan base and a bearing assembly and the rotor comprises a fan hub and a shaft. Note that a stator and a rotor are commonly known elements of a fan motor structure, thus no new matter is introduced by adding these two subassembly elements into the structure. The purpose is to distinguish moving parts (rotor) from stationary parts (stator).

Snider disclosed a dynamoelectric machine (e.g., an induction motor for an overhead ceiling fan or the like) having a stator assembly and a rotor assembly with the stator assembly comprising a bearing support or end shield, a core mounted within the bearing support with the core having a bore therethrough for rotatably receiving the rotor body of the rotor assembly (Abstract of Snider). The Examiner identified in Snider elements corresponding to those of the present application. However, the two are actually different in structure and function. According to claim 1 ("... said bearing support having a central shaft stationarily fixed relative thereto ...") and column 6, lines 8-13 of Snider, the shaft in the Snider patent is a part of the stator assembly. On the contrary, according to claim 1 or claim 5, as amended, the shaft in this application is a part of the rotor assembly in the fan motor structure. Therefore, Snider should be patentably

Appl. No. 10/799,420

9/12

Amendment 12/10/2004
Reply to OA of 09/10/2004

distinguished from the present application.

In addition, this application has the function of enhancing the connection strength between a fan hub and a shaft and reducing the overall thickness. However, Snider did not disclose such function. Thus Snider and this application have different functions. Also, Snider and this application belong to different technical fields.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejection to claim 1 and 5 should be withdrawn and the two claims should be allowable. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 2-4, which are dependent on claim 1, and claims 6-11, which are dependent on claim 5, should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons. Moreover, although Snider arguably disclosed a fan hub formed with an extrusion protruding from the top planar surface of the fan hub, Snider did not disclose a fan hub formed with an extrusion protruding from the bottom planar surface of the fan hub. In other words, the connection strength between the fan hub and the shaft may be enhanced through the extrusion protruding below the bottom planar surface of the fan hub. Therefore, claims 7 and claim 8 with such a limitation should be allowable.

102(b) Rejection over Müller

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Müller, claim 12 is currently amended for clarification purposes. The Examiner identified in Müller elements corresponding to those in claim 12, however, the Examiner mistakenly believed that the shaft in Müller has one end protruding from the bottom surface of the fan base or a top planar surface of the fan hub. When the shaft has one end protruding from the bottom surface of the fan base or a top planar surface of the fan hub, as in claim 12, it means the shaft extends outwards from the fan base or from the fan hub, as shown in Fig. 2, 4 and 7 of the present application. (With the current amendment to claim 12, the shaft invariably has one end protruding from the top planar surface of the fan hub.) On the contrary, no such protrusions of the shaft are disclosed in Müller. Therein, the shaft is entirely confined between the fan hub (70) and the fan base (30a). See Fig. 2 of Müller. The sleeve as shown therein acts as a connector for the fan hub and a cover of for shaft; it barely extends beyond the top planar surface of the fan hub for the purpose of providing extra connection strength between the fan hub and the shaft. Moreover, it has been made clear in the amended claim 12 that the extension portion of the shaft is enclosed by and in close connection with the sleeve. Whereas in

Appl. No. 10/799,420

10/12

Amendment 12/10/2004
Reply to OA of 09/10/2004

Müller no such extension portion of the shaft is formed to be so enclosed by or connected with the sleeve.

Because of the protrusions of the shaft outside the fan hub and fan base, the structure of this application may maintain enough connection strength between the fan hub and the shaft while reducing the height of fan hub. But Müller doesn't disclose such a structure. In other words, Muller fails to teach how to provide the function of "reducing the height of the fan hub while maintaining enough connection strength between the fan hub and the shaft". Thus, the rejection of claim 12 of this application over Müller should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claim 12 of this application is not anticipated by Müller. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and instead allow the claim. Moreover, since claim 14 depends on claim 12, the rejection of claim 14 of this application over Müller should also be withdrawn.

102(b) Rejection over Maruyama

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maruyama et al., claim 12 is currently amended for clarification purposes. The Examiner identified in Maruyama et al. elements corresponding to those in claim 12, however, the Examiner mistakenly believed that the shaft in Maruyama et al. has one end protruding from the bottom surface of the fan base or a top planar surface of the fan hub. Note that in the present invention the fan base is located below the fan hub, whereas it's the opposite in Maruyama et al. Thus, when the shaft has one end protruding from the bottom surface of the fan base or a top planar surface of the fan hub, as in claim 12, it means the shaft extends outwards from the fan base or fan hub, as shown in Fig. 2, 4 and 7 of the present application. (With the current amendment to claim 12, the shaft invariably has one end protruding from the top planar surface of the fan hub.) On the contrary, no such outward protrusions of the shaft are disclosed in Maruyama et al. Therein, the shaft is entirely confined within the base body (1) and does not go out of the rotor (6). See Fig. 2 of Maruyama et al. Moreover, it has been made clear in the amended claim 12 that the extension portion of the shaft is enclosed by and in close connection with the sleeve. Whereas in Maruyama et al. no such extension portion of the shaft is formed to be so enclosed by or connected with the sleeve (15).

Accordingly, claim 12 of this application is not anticipated by Maruyama et al. It is

Appl. No. 10/799,420

11/12

Amendment 12/10/2004
Reply to OA of 09/10/2004

therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and instead allow the claim. Accordingly, since claims 13 and 14 are dependent on claim 12, they should also be allowable.

103(a) Rejection over Maruyama in view of Huang

The Examiner also rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al. in view of Huang et al. However, since claim 13 depends on claim 12, which is allowable as explained above, the rejection of claim 13 on the basis of obviousness should be withdrawn.

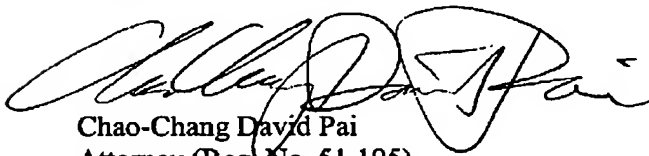
Inventorship

In response to the Examiner's reminder regarding inventorship (set forth under the Examiner's point 6), the Applicants would like to confirm that the subject matter of all claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made.

Claims 15 through 22 are added as new claims to this application to capture some details already disclosed in the original specification and drawings. Paragraphs [0020] and [0023] and Figs. 4 and 7 are amended for the purpose of clarification only without introducing any new matter.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and accordingly request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted:



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Appl. No. 10/799,420

12/12

Amendment 12/10/2004
Reply to OA of 09/10/2004